

HA-1785  
1926  
Bel Air  
Private

The German House, 151 Williams St., faces west on a lot in Richardson's Addition in a block of mixed houses whose styles range from front-gable Victorian to brick rancher. Built in 1926 or 1927, this simple 2 bay, 2 story, gable-roofed structure is devoid of ornament except for its porch, shed dormer, and black shutters. Compact yet roomy, it contains 6 rooms and a bath.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition begun at the same time are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. This pleasant 2 story house was built in 1926 for Grace German by the McComas Brothers, proprietors of the lumber yard [HA-1443 and 1444] near the now demolished train station. It is a type of vernacular house built widely in all sections of town both before and after. Miss German lived there until her death in 1948.

HA-1785  
German House  
Bel Air, Harford Co.

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

3. Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

  x   11. Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

      12. Modern Period 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

2. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community  
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Architecture

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Private Residence

Known Design Source: unknown

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. H-1735

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic German House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 151 Williams St.   n/a   not for publication

city, town Bel Air   vicinity of   congressional district 3rd

state MD   county Harford

## 3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership  | Status   | Present Use   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <u>  </u> district  | <u>  </u> public   | <u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <u>  </u> agriculture <u>  </u> museum  |
| <u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private        | <u>  </u> unoccupied                                   | <u>  </u> commercial <u>  </u> park   |
| <u>  </u> structure                                       | <u>  </u> both   | <u>  </u> work in progress                             | <u>  </u> educational <u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <u>  </u> site  | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                                    | <b>Accessible</b>                                      | <u>  </u> entertainment <u>  </u> religious   |
| <u>  </u> object  | <u>  </u> in process   | <u>  </u> yes: restricted                              | <u>  </u> government <u>  </u> scientific   |
|   | <u>  </u> being considered                                   | <u>  </u> yes: unrestricted                            | <u>  </u> industrial <u>  </u> transportation   |
|   | <u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <u>  </u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no       | <u>  </u> military <u>  </u> other:   |

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Webster Bell

street & number 151 Williams St. telephone no.: 838-8758

city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD 21014

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 688

street & number    folio 59

city, town Bel Air state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

late    federal    state    county    local

depository for survey records

city, town    state

## 7. Description

Survey No. HA-1785

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resource count: one

The German House, 151 Williams St., faces west in a block of mixed houses whose styles range from front-gable Victorian to brick rancher. Built in 1926 or 1927, this simple 2 bay, 2 story, gable-roofed structure is devoid of ornament except for its porch, shed dormer, and black shutters. Compact yet roomy, it contains 6 rooms and a bath.

Now covered in aluminum siding, the house sports a shed-roofed front porch carried on 4 simple round posts. The shed-roofed screened porch on the back (east), south of the gable-roofed basement entry, is the only exterior alteration. Three 4 pane casement windows in the dormer and 6/1 double hung sash windows complete the exterior.

The center entrance leads to the living room, which with the dining room, occupies the front of the block. A closed string, straight run staircase rises along the rear (east) wall of the living room, and a wide, doorless opening between living room and dining room allows visual connection between the rooms. A brick fireplace with wooden mantel shelf on the north wall of the living room and entirely plain woodwork complete the interior decoration. A den (north) and kitchen (south) lie to the east. Sheet wood paneling in the living room and dining room was installed by the Bells.

Mr. Bell is bed-ridden, so the second floor was not visited. It contains two bedrooms and a bath.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1785

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1926 Builder/Architect McComas Brothers

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition begun at the same time are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. This pleasant 2 story house was built in 1926 for Grace German by the McComas Brothers, proprietors of the lumber yard [HA-1443 and 1444] near the now demolished train station. It is a type of vernacular house built widely in all sections of town both before and after. Miss German lived there until her death in 1948.

Gus Edwards, the owner from 1953 to 1965, worked at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The screened porch on the rear (east) elevation and the sheet wood panels in the living room and dining room, put there by the present owners, are the only alterations. The only elements of 1920s styles in the house are the closed string staircase and the wide, doorless opening between the living room and the dining room which allows visual connection between the two rooms.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1785

Site visit, 30 Apr 1993  
Harford County Land Records

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Bel AirQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 515 in the Town of Bel Air, 50' [Williams St.] x 150'.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Marilyn M. Lareworganization \_\_\_\_\_ date 5-27-93street & number RD 1 Box 219 New Park Rd. telephone 717-993-3557city or town New Park state PA 17352

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCP  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2021  
514-7600

HA-1785  
German House  
151 Williams St.  
Bel Air, MD 21014

Owner: Webster Bell

688/59      15 Sept 1965  
             Roger G. Kincaid & Mary T., wife  
                         to  
             Webster Bell & Ann G., wife

393/448      9 May 1953  
             Gus Edwards & Dora, wife  
                         to  
             Roger C. Kincaid & Mary T., wife

and  
617/381      30 Apr 1963  
             Confirmatory deed  
             C. Bland Taylor & Katheribne, wife  
                         to  
             Grantors

338/183      29 Oct 1949  
             C. Bland Taylor, Administrator of F. Grace German  
             Taylor (d. 13 Dec 1948, will in 22/140)  
                         to  
             George Carl Reeves, Jr.

201/467      5 Feb 1927  
             M. Stanley McComas & Mary B., wife  
                         to  
             F. Grace German, unmarried  
             lot & premises  
             1/2 the lot in below

198/405      26 Mar 1926  
             W. Wylie Hopkins & Annabel W., wife  
                         to  
             M. Stanley McComas & Emory A. McComas, tenants in  
             common, equal shares  
             buildings?

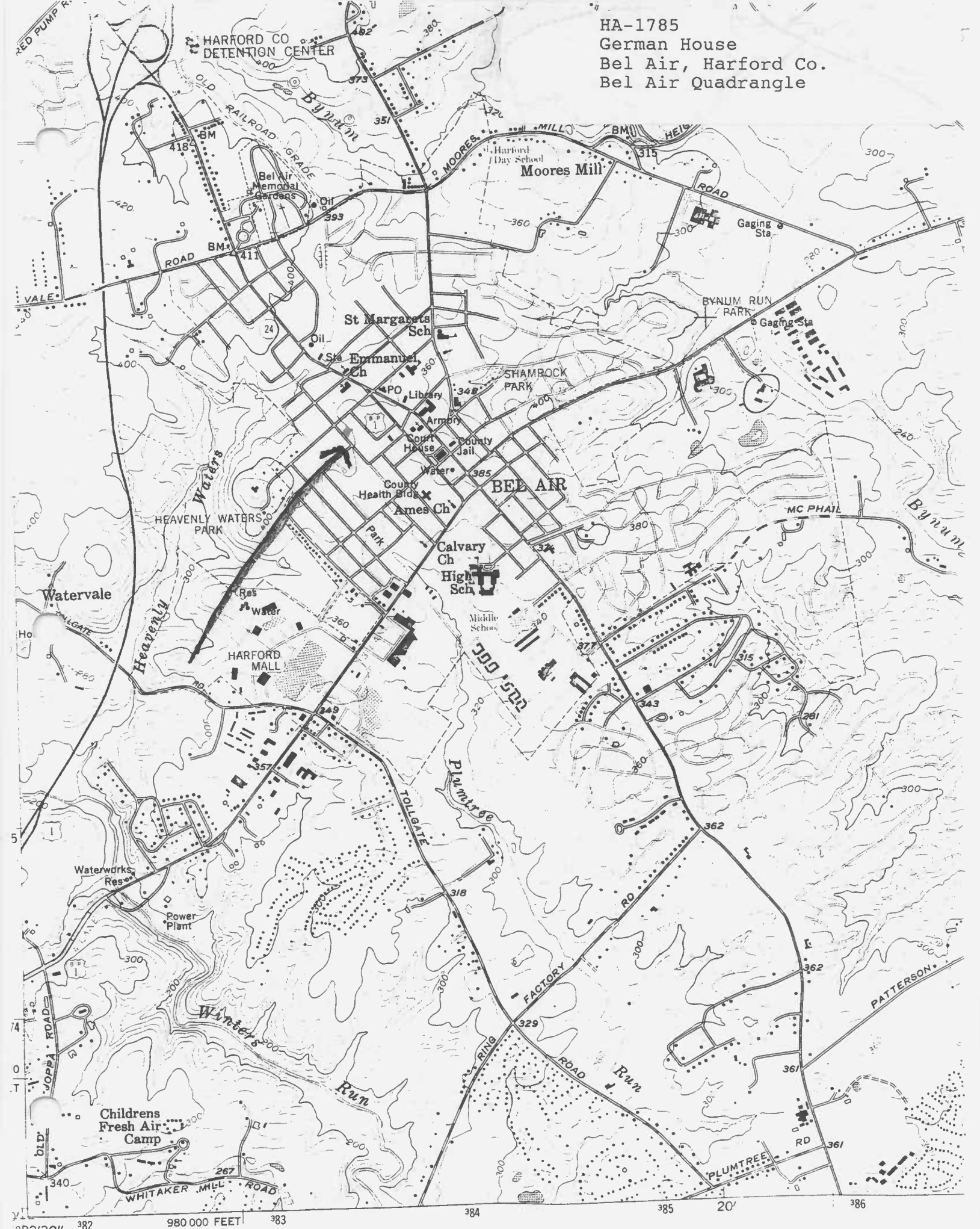
155/265      27 Apr 1917  
             Adelaide M. Bull & Charles A., husband  
                         to  
             W. Wylie Hopkins

145/210      1 June 1914  
             Henrietta G. Rouse, C. Chapman Rouse, husband, and Mary  
             C. Richardson (owners of Richardson's Addition)  
                         to  
             Adelaide Mattoon Bull, wife of Charles A. Bull

145/118    19 Apr 1914  
Rouse, Rouse, & Richardson  
          to  
Walter B. McComas & Mabel R., wife  
1/2 of lot 69 in Richardson's Addition



HA-1785  
 German House  
 Bel Air, Harford Co.  
 Bel Air Quadrangle





LA-75  
GERMAN HOUSE  
JAN-23 0-11-2  
MILAN  
5/13  
SH-2  
MIL

151 WILLIAMS ST  
BEL AIR